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1975/04/16

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 16, 1975

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TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: W. R. SMYSER

We have just received the text of the North Vietnamese note of which I spoke to you. It is not very encouraging about a possible settlement. It says, essentially, that we should withdraw our people and must get rid of Nguyen Van Thieu.

The note also states that repentent South Vietnamese can stay and will not be harmed, and that the President's request to use U.S. forces to help evacuation runs counter to our commitment to respect the "Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights..."

The note's charges and arguments are not new. What is interesting, of course, is that Hanoi chose to send it at all. This may mean they want to keep the door open for a later dialogue but the conditions for such a dialogue that this note holds out do not offer good prospects from our standpoint. I do not, therefore, want to over-stress this possible opening, since the note is essentially a reiteration of established points.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 2/10/00

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